

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 11, 2010

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Raleigh, N.C. – **U.S. Rep. Brad Miller** will spend the day in Rockingham County, Friday, February 19th, talking with workers and business owners about job loss and problems preventing businesses from operating successfully.

The Bureau of Labor and Statistics ranks the jobless rate in Rockingham County at 12.1 percent. The Bureau of Labor and Statistics ranks North Carolina number 8 in unemployment at 11.2 percent, its highest point in more than 30 years. Economists don't expect North Carolina hiring to pick up until Spring.

"The downturn in the economy combined with the downturn in the housing market has crushed industries such as Karastan Rugs in Eden," said Rep. Miller. "A lower demand for home furnishings and foreign competition forced another 140 workers to lose their jobs at the plant just before Christmas."

The Congressman plans the following meetings in Rockingham County:

What: Rep. Miller will visit Karastan Rugs in Eden to tour the plant and greet workers.

He will also talk with plant managers about the backlog of TAA certifications (aid to workers who lose their jobs or whose hours of work and wages are reduced as a result of increased imports).

When: Friday, February 19th, 11 A.M. to Noon

Where: Karastan Rugs, 712 Henry St., Eden, N.C.

What: Rep. Miller will host a Small Business Forum to hear from Small Business leaders, owners and community leaders on assessing lending challenges in the 2010 economy. Rep. Miller serves on the House Financial Services Committee. He will take comments back to the Committee which is studying the issue.

When: Friday, February 19th, 1 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Where: XXXXXXXXXXXXX

What: Rep. Miller will meet attend a displaced workers XXXXXX Union Meeting to discuss providing assistance to laid-off workers at Karastan. His staff has confirmed that a TAA certification has been filed.

When: Friday, February 19th, 3 P.M. to 4 P.M.

Where: XXXX Union Hall, XXXXXXX, Eden, N.C.

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